

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8-10 have been amended. Claims 1-7 and 11-14 have been cancelled. Claims 8-10 and 15-16 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY TAKENAKA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,699,289)

Claims 1-7 and 11-14 are cancelled herein and, thus, the rejections thereof are considered moot and should be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 8-10 and 15-16 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Takenaka et al. (hereinafter "Takenaka") teaches forming a power source wiring group in a mesh-like form above each core block to connect the power source circuit to a sense amplifier drive circuit. However, Takenaka fails to teach or even suggest a designing method that checks each border edge of a block area to determine whether a border edge is a first border edge or a second border edge, and that treats the first border edge and the second border edge differently in subsequent design processes, such as the extraction of resistance and capacitance, for example. Furthermore, the Examiner makes no mention of Takenaka discussing this feature.

In contrast, according to amended claim 8, each border edge of a block area is checked to determine whether a border edge is a first border edge or a second border edge, and a wiring prohibited area and a shielding line are provided for the first border edge and the second border edge, respectively, with the extraction of resistance and capacitance performed by utilizing the wiring prohibited area for the first border edge and the shielding line for the second border edge. (See also Fig. 8 and page 15, line 7 to page 16, line 3).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 9-10 and 15-16 depend from claim 8 and inherit the patentable recitations thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-10 and 15-16 also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

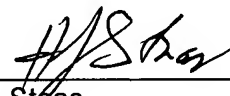
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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